



Phoenix
*Helping neighbors
build communities*

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August 10, 2009

Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 W. Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ 85007

AZ CORP COMMISSION
DOCKET CONTROL

Re: Docket Number E-01345A-08-0172

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) Phoenix office I am writing to you in support of increased energy efficiency requirements as part of the APS rate case settlement agreement. Energy efficiency is the cleanest and cheapest energy source we have. We should maximize efficiency measures and require the utilities to offer programs to assist customers to increase their energy efficiency. LISC Phoenix is doing our part by implementing a pilot project to increase energy efficiency by rehabbing vacant older homes in the neighborhoods affected by high rates of foreclosure. We believe that increasing the energy efficiency of older homes will make them more attractive to lower-income families who want to purchase an affordable home.

I realize that the APS rate case will result in higher electricity rates, but coupled with the significant increases in energy efficiency, it will help consumers lower overall electric bills. Weatherization, new energy efficient lighting and appliances, and mitigating the heat island effect can all reduce energy consumption. As an APS customer myself, I am willing to pay higher rates to fund programs that will help me and the low-income families that LISC serves to lower energy use and electric bills.

Programs that provide rebates and technical assistance to electric utility customers who purchase energy efficient lighting, air conditioners, and other equipment, or invest in measures in their home, office or other buildings that result in reductions in energy use are all good investments for the future and necessary for reducing our energy load in Arizona. Through increasing investments in energy efficiency programs, the Commission will allow businesses and consumers to save money which can be used to benefit local economies in our state. I also would like to see programs to help reduce the urban heat island effect through shading, cool roofs, and cool pavements.

I also support measures to provide technical assistance and financial incentives for businesses and schools that increase their energy efficiency, as well as design assistance and incentives for builders who construct efficient homes and buildings. Any efficiency program should include grants for weatherizing low-income housing – rental and owner-occupied. LISC Phoenix wants to see APS and other utilities in Arizona increase energy efficiency to at least 20% by 2020. An energy efficiency standard should be achieved through a combination of energy efficiency programs administered by the utilities (15% by 2020) and building energy codes and appliance efficiency standards (5% by 2020).

Thank you for considering my comments as you make your decisions about increasing energy efficiency in Arizona.

Sincerely,

Teresa Brice, Executive Director

Arizona Corporation Commission
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Local Initiatives Support Corporation

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